

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 27, 2006, Applicants amended claims 1-3, 5-9 and 14, and cancelled claims 4 and 13. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14 are presented for examination.

Claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 as being indefinite. Applicants amended claims 9 and 14 to obviate the rejection, and cancelled claim 13. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 was objected to for lack of proper antecedent basis. Applicants amended claim 3 to obviate the objection, so the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,483,099 ("Yu"). As amended, claims 1-3, 6, and 8-12 require leakage connectors disposed on an electrode formed of a predominantly organic material. Yu does not disclose the subject matter covered by claims 1-3, 6 and 8-12. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 4, 5, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu and Thalheimer, U.S. Patent No. 4,758,526 ("Thalheimer"). Claims 4 and 13 were cancelled so the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Claims 5 and 14 require leakage connectors disposed on an electrode formed of a predominantly organic material.

As explained above, Yu does not disclose such subject matter. Nor is there any suggestion to modify Yu to provide the subject matter covered by claims 5 and 14. To the contrary, Yu discloses photodiodes for use in image sensors. (See, e.g., Yu col. 1, lines 6-13 and Abstract.) As known to those skilled in the art, the current that is transported through an electrode in Yu's system is significantly lower, in some cases on the order of more than a thousand times lower, than the current that is transported by the electrodes of the type covered by claims 5 and 14. Further, Yu applies a reverse bias to his electrodes. (See, e.g., id. col. 3, lines 63-65 and Abstract.) One skilled in the art would understand that, when selecting his electrode materials, Yu did not select his electrode materials based on whether the materials were selective with respect to transport of a given charge (positive or negative). Thus, one skilled in the art would not have considered Yu when designing the electrodes covered by claims 5 and 14.

In addition, even if one skilled in the art had somehow modified Yu, that person would not have been motivated to modify Yu with the teaching of Thalheimer to add leakage connectors, as required by claims 5 and 14 because that person would have recognized that such leakage connectors are unnecessary in Yu's system. Indeed, Yu discloses that his system works very well without such leakage connectors. (*See, e.g., id.* col. 3, line 63-col. 4, line 8.)

Neither Yu nor Thalheimer, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the subject matter covered by claims 5 and 14. There is no suggestion to combine these references to provide such subject matter, and, even if the references were combined, the result would not be the subject matter covered by claims 5 and 14. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu and Friend et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,498,049 ("Friend"). As amended, claim 7 requires leakage connectors disposed on an electrode formed of a predominantly organic material. Neither Yu nor Friend, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the subject matter covered by claim 7. There is no suggestion to combine these references to provide such subject matter, and, even if the references were combined, the result would not be the subject matter covered by claim 7. Hence, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

Applicants believe that the application is currently in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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